

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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What Happened to a Dead Man Getting Just What You Pray For

By EVANGELIST CHARLES E. FULLER

(Preached on Old Fashioned Revival Hour, Sunday night, September 14, 1941.)

Now with your Bibles open, turn to the eleventh chapter of John's gospel. Now the scene of our message is laid in the little town of Bethany, located about two miles from Jerusalem, on the road to Jericho. The time, the closing days of Christ's public ministry here on earth some 1900 years ago. Bethany was the home of Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. The Lord Jesus often lodged there, for He, the Son of God, had no home, no place to lay His head. Two visits to Martha's home are recorded in the Scripture, in Luke 10 and John 11. In Luke 10 we learn much about the two sisters. Martha, busy about the house with much serving, was a wonderful hostess; Mary often sat at the Lord's feet, drinking in the wonderful words from Christ Himself. In Luke 10 the brother whom Jesus loved is not mentioned, but we learn about him in John 11. Now I just want you to get this picture here—Jesus was in Perea, east of the River Jordan; and the news was sent to him that the brother of Mary and Martha was sick nigh unto death. So in the opening verses of chapter 11 we read here of a tragedy which struck the home where Jesus often went to lodge. Lazarus was sick nigh unto death, literally of sinking sickness. The same word is rendered impotent in John 5, that is, without strength, utterly exhausted through sickness. So the message which came to the Lord Jesus was this, "Lazarus, whom thou lovest is sinking." Now notice verses 1 to 3.

"Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha."

"(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with oint-

ment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

"Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick."

Now, you will notice Mary and Martha did the blessed thing, they acted in this great hour of need. What did they do? They sought the Lord and unburdened their hearts. And, my friends, trouble or tragedy or trial will do either one of two things—

it will drive you closer to the Lord and make you humble and contrite, or it will cause you to become more bitter and hard-hearted. You take Pharaoh in Egypt resisting God, not willing to be obedient to the Word of God, hardened himself and steeled himself against the judgments that came down upon Egypt; and his heart was hardened.

But, in the forty-sixth Psalm we read these words, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Will you notice the word *present*? And how beautifully Mary and Martha were obedient to that verse in the forty-sixth Psalm, trusting that God was their refuge and strength, and a very present help in the time of trouble. And you remember Hezekiah, one of the fine kings that ruled over Israel back in the Old Testament days one day received a very threatening note, threatening his life. And we are told there that he spread the whole matter before the Lord—he just told the Lord all about it. And you read

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REV. C. E. FULLER

"And what soever we ask, we receive of him...." (1 John 3:22)
"...if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?" (Matthew 7:9, 10).

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

We have lost the definiteness, the practical effectiveness of New Testament prayer. Our unbelief has made our prayers pointless and answerless and Christians have become content to pray for little and to be content to get something else or get nothing! The Bible certainly teaches that the Christian in the will of God ought to be able to ask God for exactly what he wants and get exactly that with no substitute.

In a previous article in *The Sword of the Lord* I showed that *prayer is asking*. Prayer is not adoration, it is not meditation, it is not even praise and thanksgiving. Prayer is not just spiritual exercise. No, prayer is asking. There ought to be adoration and meditation and thanksgiving, to be sure, but these are not prayer; prayer is asking. So we are told, "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2). We are promised, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). Many, many Scriptures show that prayer, in the Bible sense, is asking God definitely for something.

Now there is another side to that truth. If prayer is asking, then the answer to prayer must be receiving. It is the will of our loving Heavenly Father that we should be able to come to Him day by day, ask what we want and receive it.

Preachers have a way, when faith grows dim and weak, of making alibis for the fruitlessness of their prayers. For example, preachers sometimes say, "God answers prayer three ways. He may say, 'Yes' or He may say, 'No,' or He may say, 'Wait awhile.'"

Of course that statement is intended to mean that a Christian ought to be content for the will of God to be done and to be satisfied with anything God gives. But actually, it teaches exactly the opposite of what the Bible teaches about prayer. It makes us think of prayer as a mystical, indefinite matter, where one may get what he wants, or may not, as if there were no way to know what is the will of God. It leaves the impression that there is not much use of praying, because God will do what pleases Him anyway without any meddling of ours, so why should we pray. And anything that makes prayer indefinite, and makes the answer seem uncertain, is contrary to the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Sensible people would not be content with any such slipshod and indefinite arrangement about asking and receiving in any other realm of life. Suppose I should drive into a filling station to buy gasoline, and say, "I want ten gallons of gas, please, and check the oil." I expect the affirmative answer, that is, I expect to get just what I ask for. How surprised I would be if the attendant would say, "No, I am sorry, but I don't think you need any gas," and would refuse to fill my empty tank. Or if he would say, as some preachers say God does, "Wait awhile." When you have waited there until I think you deserve it, I'll get you some gas." Or I should be even more surprised if, instead of gasoline, the attendant should fill up

my tank with soapsuds, or alcohol, or mud! This 'yes' or 'no' or 'wait awhile' would not seem sensible, I say, to people in any other matters of asking and receiving; and yet they speak in that foolish way about prayer!

Suppose that a young man has learned to love devotedly a certain young woman and has cause to believe that she loves him. Suppose he then asks her to marry him, but she refuses. Would the young man then go along happily saying that he had received his request, that his request was answered? No, and neither should a Christian be content until he can be in such close touch with God that he can get exactly what he asks for, and rejoice in a "yes" from God in answer to his prayers.

I. Many Scriptures Expressly Teach That You Can Get What You Ask For From God, and Not Something Else

When some manufacturer has advertised his goods all over America until they are famous, then he insists in his advertising, "Accept no substitutes." So careful buyers are accustomed to asking

for what they want and not being satisfied with something which may be "just as good." But how many Christians there are who are willing to take less than God's best, Christians who fail to live in the day by day joy of getting from God just what they want and need, and having God say yes to their prayers!

Many Scriptures promise that a Christian should expect to be able to pray so as to get just what he wants from God. There are certain conditions to that kind of praying which we will discuss later. But first let us get it settled in our minds that God expects definite praying for definite things, and that He gladly promises to give us, under proper conditions, just what we ask for. God does not want to say, "No." God does not want to say, "Wait awhile." God does not want to give us something else. He wants us to ask for His best, and then He wants to give us exactly what we ask for. Here I will give some of the blessed promises which show we may have what we ask for.

1. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7, 8).

According to this simple and blessed promise of Jesus, prayer

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YOUTH'S CORNER

Light From the Word of God on Young People's Problems

Will you write me your questions, comments or criticisms? Some letters will be published without names, but all names must be signed. Write YOUTH'S CORNER, *The Sword of the Lord*, 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Is Absolute Surrender Practical For Young People Today?

A Bible Answer to the Problems of a Christian Girl, Planning to Be A Foreign Missionary, Who Is in Nurses' Training

Before me lies a letter from a young woman taking nurses' training, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, one who knows she is saved and has had many answers to prayer and really loves the Lord Jesus. But she is concerned because she dreads the reproach that would be hers if she should boldly try to win souls, in her position, and fears the cost of discipleship if she really follows Jesus anywhere He leads, and sells out, soul and body, to Him, for self to be crucified, and to live or die for Him alone. Here are some extracts from her letter.

"Dear Dr. Rice:

I have just finished reading your book, "The Soul Winner's Fire." I thought it was wonderful. It made me think that perhaps you'd understand, how I feel and what I want and maybe tell me something that would help me.

"I am a student nurse in a hospital here in ———, I have been in training for a little more than a year. In ——— I graduated from Moody. When I finish my training, God willing, I hope to go to Africa as a missionary.

"Dr. Rice, I've been a Christian, or at least a poor excuse for one, since I was 14 years old—I'm nearly 23 now. Most of those years

have been "ups" and "downs" of Christian experience, sometimes I think mostly "downs." I have loved Jesus Christ, though, and He's been so precious to me. I could fill several books telling of the blessings and provision and guidance with which He has supplied me.

"It took me a long time before I'd willingly say, 'yes, Lord Jesus, if you want me to be a foreign missionary, I'll be one.' I didn't want to before, but I do now. I'm glad—I'm happy that I can be one; that He wants me to be.

"But Dr. Rice, the more I think of it, the more convinced I become that a person can be a Christian, live a life wholly acceptable before a world of men and other Christians, yes—and even have their life surrendered to God for foreign service; and yet their heart be far from Him. Am I right?

"I feel that that is just my condition most of the time. The Lord has been speaking so very definitely, it seems to me, for the last several months about a complete unconditional surrender of my heart to Him. And when I say complete I mean *complete*! I seem to feel the constant urge and desire — yes, and the pleading of Christ within me to forget the

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Hundreds of Trial Subs Coming

We are grateful for friends who have already sent in hundreds of trial subscriptions but we must have far more help if we get 5,000 new trial subscriptions. We have made specially attractive subscription rates. You may send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to a friend seventeen weeks for only 25c or you may send five seventeen week subscriptions for only \$1.00. That is a little more than half the regular rate and we have to record the subscription and make the mailing stencil for each subscription just the same. However, we are glad to do it in order to make new friends.

And if you will send ten trial subscriptions for \$2.00, we will send you free the editor's new book, THE SOUL - WINNER'S FIRE, 127 pages, eight chapters on soul winning passion and power, on revivals and revival preaching. My, what good word we get from preachers who have been blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*! A letter from Rev. E. O. Odegard, pastor of Marquette Manor Baptist Church, Chicago, says,

"I am one of many thousands who have received rich blessings and inspiration from reading 'The Sword.' I wish I could be present (at a recent Sword rally) to add my humble testimony. My earnest

prayer is that the Lord may supply your needs and grant you health to carry on your great work for many years to come, if He tarries."

From all over the country come like testimonies from ministers of the gospel. Why don't you send trial subscriptions to a list of preacher friends who will find blessed personal inspiration as well as rich preaching material in *The Sword of the Lord*? Nearly every reader of the paper could make a list of either five or ten godly ministers to whom they should send *The Sword of the Lord* for a trial subscription and many would renew for themselves and thus the blessings of *The Sword of the Lord* would be passed on by these good ministers to their hundreds or thousands of hearers.

And devout Christians write, some of them every day, to tell us of the blessing they get from THE SWORD OF THE LORD. From Crivitz, Wisconsin, a reader wrote

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GIVEN FREE WITH TEN TRIAL SUBS FOR \$2.00

Getting Just What You Pray For

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is asking; and the answer is receiving. Prayer is seeking, and finding is God's answer to prayer. Or if knocking represents prayer, then having the door opened is God's answer to prayer. Blessed is the Christian who asks and receives, who seeks and finds, and who, when he knocks, has the door opened! And this is the NORMAL prayer life for a Christian.

2. "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

Here again we see that in God's sight prayer is simply asking. "Ye have not, because ye ask not." And if prayer is asking, then the answer to prayer is having. Christians should ask for what they want to have, and then they should have what they ask for.

3. Matthew 7:9, 10 says, "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?" And Luke 11:11, 12 asks the same question with an additional example, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?" As an example illustrating prayer Jesus tells of a son asking his father for what he wants. So we are to ask our Heavenly Father for what we want. And the boy who asks bread does not get a stone, and if he asks a fish he doesn't get a snake, and if he asks an egg he does not get a scorpion. It is true that these Scriptures mean that God will give good gifts, not bad ones, to those who pray; but it is also manifestly true that Jesus is here teaching that we ought to pray and get just what we pray for! We ought to get the very thing we ask for, not a substitute! It is true that there are certain conditions, and the prayer ought to be in the will of God, not contrary to it; but these conditions can be met, and a Christian can know the will of God and ask in the will of God and get exactly what he asks for.

4. John 16:23, 24 gives us an even stronger statement that the prayer that pleases God can get exactly what it asks for. "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.* Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." That means that the right kind of praying is to get "whatsoever ye shall ask." And verse 24 says that we are to ask and receive, as the constant source of joy. Christians can be happy by getting what they want when they pray.

5. In Mark 11:24 Jesus promises, "What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray.... ye shall have them." Christians praying in faith can have exactly the things they desire when they pray!

6. In John 14:13, 14 the Lord Jesus promised, "whatsoever ye shall ask" and said, "If ye shall ask *any thing* in my name, I will do it."

7. In Matthew 21:22 we have the sweet and definite promise, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." That Scripture certainly means that one should be able to pray and get exactly what he asks for.

Now the Scriptures here mentioned have some conditions in prayer, conditions of faith, or of

asking in Jesus' name. But that is not the point here. What I am anxious for you to get, dear reader, is the clear Bible teaching that a Christian when he prays ought to expect the answer "yes," instead of the answer "No." A Christian who prays ought to get what he prays for, not something else. A Christian's praying should be the kind that gets what it asks for. *It is no real answer to prayer, in the Bible sense, if you do not get what you ask for!*

Prayer is ASKING.

An answer to prayer is HAVING.

I beg you not to be content with a hit or miss kind of prayer life. You may learn how to pray so you can ask for what you ought to have, and get it.

II. How to Pray in The Will of God For a "Yes" Answer

All of us know that the average Christian does not usually get exactly what he asks for from God. On the contrary, the average Christian expects nothing of the kind. His prayers are indefinite; they do not pointedly and plainly ask for concrete, definite answers. Ordinary prayers are not really meant to be answered. The ordinary "prayer" is not asking, and it does not expect an answer of having.

Doubtless this is the reason that so many Christians condition nearly every request with the words, "if it be thy will." We ask God to send a revival "if it be thy will." We ask God to save sinners for whom Christ died and over whom He yearns with inexpressible longing, "if it be thy will!" We ask God for the things He has promised to give, the things which He longs to give, the things for which He has entreated us to ask; and then we ask and put a question mark by it—God forgive us! We put an IF in our prayers about whether God is willing to save souls or give revivals or keep His word! But that "if" is not a sign of submission to the will of God—it is a sign of our unbelief. It is a sign of our stumbling about in the dark in our prayers, with no assurance that God will hear us and give us the things we ask for.

Suppose that in the pulpit your pastor should put an "if" about the virgin birth of Christ, as you put an "if" about His keeping His promises, would you like that? Suppose there is a doubt, an if, an uncertainty, an ambiguity about every doctrine a preacher preaches, with no certainty, no ring of victory, nothing you could absolutely depend upon, in the way the Word of God was proclaimed and taught—would you like that? Well, do you think God would like that? No more does He like us to come with such unbelief, such stumbling, doubting, uncertainty to ask for the things which He has promised and which He wants to give. No, God's wants us to find out how to pray in the will, to pray according to His will for things which can honor His great name; and then He wants us to expect definite and exact answers to those prayers. If we ask for bread, He wants us to expect bread and not a stone. If we ask for fish, He wants us to expect fish, and not a snake. If we ask for an egg, He wants us to expect an egg and not a scorpion. He wants praying to be on the basis of asking and receiving as simple as that of a child and his own father.

And for that kind of praying, there are certain important requirements. Before we can pray in the will of God with the certainty of getting what we ask for, certain important conditions must be met, which I will name.

1. First of all there must be a full surrender to the will of God. There can be no happy, successful prayer life for a rebellious child of God. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight thyself in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Remember that when Jesus taught us to pray He said the very first requests we are to make are these, "Hallowed be thy name, Thy will be done on earth...." God is our Father, and children should be subject to their father. We are not our own. We are bought and paid for, redeemed with the awful price of Calvary. There can be no victory in prayer except as the heart humbly bows and says, "My Father, show me

how to pray in Thy will. I want to ask what will please Thee. I want to have what you want me to have." Every Christian who wants to be able to pray for certain definite things and get exactly what he prays for, day after day, should first pray, like the disciples of old, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). God delights to answer the prayer of a surrendered heart, wholly surrendered to His sweet will.

In James 4:2 is the remarkable and blessed promise, "Ye have not because ye ask not." God has so many wonderful things that He longs to give us, and He only waits for our asking. And yet the next verse tells us that "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Wicked hearts that seek to have success in prayer without first getting on the praying ground of a surrendered heart, are doomed to disappointment. No doubt here is a great secret of our lack of faith and lack of enthusiasm and lack of success in prayer; we ask amiss that we may consume things on our own lusts.

Sometimes a wife wants her husband saved, and she prays for him; yet her motives may be all wrong. It may be that the wife thinks, "If my husband were saved, it would be so much easier on me. He would take me to church. He would be kinder in the home." So she prays for the thing that God really wants to do, longs to do; but God cannot righteously answer her prayers. God needs to make the wife's heart right before He can save her husband. So many Christians hinder the answers to their own prayers, prayers that God would delight to answer, if it could be done to His glory, without His encouraging sin. Oh, how important it is that the heart should surrender to the Lord Jesus!

We need to pray with the words of the sweet hymn by George C. Stebbins:

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Seach me and try me,
Master today!
Whiter than snow, Lord,
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence
Humbly I bow.

"Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always,
Living in me!"

Dear Christian, if you really are tuned in to Heaven by a heart submitted wholly to the will of God, then you are ready to learn how to pray so you can ask God for exactly what you want and get it.

2. Next, we must have a heart understanding of God's Word, so we may know the will of God. How can we ask with any assurance that God will be pleased to give us what we ask, unless we know something of His will? For this reason Jesus said in John 15:7, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Here, asking just what we want, and getting it, is said to depend upon our abiding in Christ and His Word abiding in us. We cannot know the will of God without familiarity with the Word. In Psalm 1:1-3, and in Joshua 1:7-9 the prosperity of a Christian in everything is conditioned upon his meditating day and night in the Word of God and walking therein. It is not enough just to read the Word of God. It should abide in us. We should love it, should meditate in it, should absorb it until it colors all our lives and thoughts. Then when you come to ask something from God and can say honestly, "My dear Heavenly Father, I have found in Your Word that You want me to have thus and so, and that it would honor Thy name. You have said for me to ask for it, so I claim Thy promise and believe Thy Word and take what Thou hast promised me." Then we can certainly expect

the answer, and get exactly what we prayed for.

For example, notice the sweet promise of I John 1:9 that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Knowing that verse, any Christian in the world can get instant forgiveness for any sin he is willing to confess with his whole heart; and he can get cleansing, too. He has the Word of God for it! It would be a sin for a Christian to doubt that God is ready instantly to forgive and cleanse any Christian who honestly confesses that sin. Or take the implied promise in the Lord's prayer when the Saviour taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Any Christian familiar with the word of God can pray for daily bread and get it, knowing already it is God's will. It would be a mistake to pray, "if it be Thy will" about a thing which God has already clearly told us His will.

On the other hand, if a Christian be thoroughly ended with the Word of the Lord, he could not honestly ask for the great wealth of the world, to the ignoring of spiritual values. If he knew and loved and believed the words of the Saviour in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," he would certainly know that spiritual blessings are far more important than great wealth, that to seek first the kingdom of God would bring the greatest happiness, the greatest peace, and the greatest prosperity. He would know that one who really seeks first the kingdom of God will have food to eat and garments to wear, beside the peace of God which passeth understanding.

I am saying that one cannot pray in the will of God without knowing the Word of God. The Bible is the revelation of the heart of God. It is the revelation of all that is good and right and true and pure. When you understand, from the heart, the teachings of God's Word, and when you meditate therein day and night, then you can pray knowing that what you ask for is in the will of God; and that it will both please and honor Him to hear and answer your prayer and give you what you ask for. And prayer that is not based on the Bible is likely to be not pleasing to God. And groups of Christians who put great emphasis on prayer and little emphasis on the Word, are usually fanatical, extremists, who may enjoy emotional ecstasy, but who do not always pray in the will of God and do not get, many times, the things for which they ask.

3. Next to pray in the will of God one needs the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, our poor carnal minds would get only the bare letter of the Bible, and not understand the will of God; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned. And there are a thousand details on which we need to know the mind of God, about which the bare letter of the Word of God does not give information. What shall be the theme of my next sermon? To which sinner should I speak first about his soul? How shall I approach him? Should I ask God for a new car, or do with the old one for awhile? Does God want my children to take music or not? Shall I send this money to foreign missions, or give it to the local church? What part of the Scripture shall I read in my devotions today? Does God want me to take this business venture? Thus there are a thousand questions about which one needs the personal and detailed guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, or we cannot certainly pray in the will of God, and be assured that we have a right to expect exactly what we ask.

But, bless God, every Christian can have the Holy Spirit to help him pray. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27). No, we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but our infirmity in this matter is helped

Preachers, Attention!

If pastors or Sunday school superintendents or leaders of young people's meetings will write us, we will be glad to send sample copies of 'The Sword of the Lord' to be given out to the people if you will give them a chance to take a trial subscription to 'The Sword of the Lord.' If you get five or more, they can have them for 20c each, seventeen weeks for 20c. If you send in ten such trial subscriptions with \$2.00, we will send 'THE SOUL-WINNER'S FIRE,' a 127 page book of soul winning by Editor John R. Rice.

If you send twenty trial subscriptions with \$4.00, we will send you free the editor's cloth bound, gold jacket book of favorite sermons, "AND GOD REMEMBERED...."

If you will give out sample copies of 'The Sword of the Lord' to your people and say a word in comment, you will have no trouble in getting trial subscriptions to this paper which has blessed so many. Why not write for samples today and tell us how many copies you will need?

by the Holy Spirit. He makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. And then our prayer, led and dictated by the Holy Spirit, reaches the heart of God; and we get what we ask because the Holy Spirit "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." The Holy Spirit can pray always "according to the will of God," and so any prayer that is inspired and guided and aided by the Holy Spirit, can be assured of an answer. When one prays according to the will of God, then that prayer will be answered. Someone has well said that any prayer that begins in Heaven will certainly not be rejected there.

The Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter" by our Saviour (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7). This "Comforter" is a translation of the Greek word *parakletos*, meaning "one called alongside." So the blessed Holy Spirit is alongside of every Christian. Better yet, the Saviour said in John 14:17, "Ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." With the apostles, before the resurrection, the Holy Spirit dwelled with them. But in the future after Christ was glorified, the Holy Spirit is promised to be *within* us. So when Jesus rose from the dead, He breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (Jn. 20:22). And from that time, now every saved person has the Holy Spirit abiding in his body. Romans 8:9 says, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. The Spirit of God dwells in us who are saved; and if anybody does not have this Spirit of Christ, this Holy Spirit, dwelling in him, he is not saved. First Corinthians 6:19, 20 say, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." The body of every Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God, Who dwells within. And, oh, how eager this blessed Holy Spirit is to comfort us and to guide us into all truth and teach us.

In fact, this Holy Spirit of God is also "the Spirit of Christ," as Romans 8:9 says. Jesus promised the heartsick disciples on the night before the crucifixion, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18); and He explained that He would come in the person of the Holy Spirit of God. And John 14:26 says, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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YOUTH'S CORNER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

world, close my eyes to it, turn my back on it, and follow Him alone! I mean a life absolutely under the control of His Spirit—a will completely yielded to His will, a heart ready to obey His slightest command. An absolute forsaking of self—I mean a life crucified with Christ so that it would no longer be I that lived but Christ living in me. Not for my glory but for His.

"I've heard and read of lives like that—I just read a book a few weeks ago that portrayed exactly what I mean. It was the life of C. T. Studd. That man lived a life of real sacrifice for God. It isn't often I've seen a life like that, but I still believe it is what God wants and somehow I believe He wants it of me.

"But Dr. Rice, part of me wants it, the other part of me is fighting it, and I'm unhappy.

"I shall never forget a little cottage prayer meeting I attended once early in my Christian life. They sang the chorus, 'Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart,' and while heads were bowed the preacher asked those to raise their hands who would say, 'Lord, I want to be a soul-winning Christian.' God really spoke to my heart that night and I raised my hand and I meant it with my whole heart. Somehow I've always felt that more than anything else God has wanted me for a soul-winner. Yet how far short I've come of being one. I have led so few to Christ. You see, I feel so sure I could by God's grace, win many, if my heart were right with Him.

"But, Dr. Rice, the thought of full surrender scares me. I don't know why, unless it is the thought of completely giving up the desires of self. I can't help but wonder what my life would be like if it were absolutely God's. What I honestly want to know is if that kind of life is really practical. If I could be convinced of that I think I'd be ready to yield. I've always wanted to believe that the Christian life is practical—that Christ can be taken into every phase of our life, even to the tiniest detail. Will a life of full surrender really work in this day and age when even professing Christians think you are 'queer' if you are too strict and serious about your Christian life?

"Dr. Rice, I live in the nurse's home with the rest of my class of student nurses, most of whom care nothing about Jesus Christ. If my life is truly yielded to Christ I know He's going to lead me to speak to some of those girls about their souls—perhaps even all of them. If I do they'll probably talk about me and think I'm coo-coo. Some of them have criticized me anyway for certain stands I've taken.

"As I think of what I'm writing here now—I'm ashamed of myself. Somehow I know it doesn't matter what people think of you so long as you are right with God. And yet it does matter to me. That's just it, I can't come to the place where I'm willing to say that it doesn't matter. I've witnessed for Christ to some of those girls—I've really talked seriously to two or three of them, but I still don't think I've done enough. My life is really haphazard as far as serving Christ is concerned. There is not enough of devotion to Christ—not enough time spent with Him in prayer and with His Word.

Oh, I think I know what I really want my life to be, but I want to know that it is practical, that it can be lived, that it would glorify Christ; but I'm afraid the cost is too great—that I'm not willing to pay the price.

"I'm sure God wants me to be yielded to His Spirit and I'm so rebellious most of the time and yet I don't want to be. Dr. Rice, what will make me more willing to follow Christ—more willing to yield to His Spirit's leading at any cost. Even though it may mean the taunts and sneers and misunderstanding of friends and neighbors. If people are laughing, sneering at your life is it really glorifying to Christ? Shouldn't a Christian life be something that others would desire to have rather than something for them to criticize?

"Dr. Rice, if only I could give up self and let Christ really have me

for Him! I wish I would. Is there anything you could tell me that would help me or that would make me more willing? It seems that I can only feel rebellion in my heart."

Yes, It Is Practical to Follow Jesus Absolutely, and It Is a Happy, Joyous Life; But One Who Follows Jesus Must Suffer Reproach As He Did

Here I give my answer to this earnest young Christian, hoping it will help many others who have similar problems.

October 25, 1941

My Dear Young Friend:

I will answer your serious, earnest letter, as honestly as I can, and if I can be of any encouragement and help I will be more than happy.

There are five things I want to say to you.

1. *There are a number of good signs revealed in your letter.* First, you are sure you are saved. You trusted Christ as your own Saviour and had sweet assurance that He forgave you. Second, you have longed to know and do the will of God, and you surrendered yourself to His will for the mission field. You have had sweet experiences with the Lord, and direct dealings with Him. Third, you have a tender conscience that is really bothered when you find that you are not in the will of God. You tell me there is self will, and all of us Christians must face that, but thank God there is sweet evidence that in you there is a new creature who longs to be altogether for Jesus. This struggle is not a bad sign but a good one. "The trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:3). James 1:2 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;" The word *temptations* here means, I think, testing, and you are having a time of real testing. Thank God for it, dear friend, and take courage. Aren't you glad that you have faced the facts frankly now, instead of waiting until you got to the foreign field? I have no doubt God has a blessed work for you to do for Him, and He wants you to see ahead of time what it costs, what it is worth, and have the sweet assurance of victory. So do not be discouraged that there is a struggle. And while you can have a blessed victory here, and know that it really pays to serve the Lord, do not think that Satan will let you alone in the future. He will not. As long as you serve the Lord, expect to find testings, thorns in the flesh.

But it is a blessed truth, that His grace will always be sufficient, and you can have daily victory.

2. *I want to answer an emphatic "Yes" to your question as to whether it is practical today to live an out-and-out Christian life, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit and wholly surrendered to Christ.* I mean that course will work today as well as it ever did work. Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The plan that worked for C. T. Studd, who gave up all for Christ, the plan that worked for John and Betty Stam, martyred in China, beheaded by the communist bandits; the plan that worked for Paul, and Stephen, and D. L. Moody will work today. I praise the Lord for the evidence down through the years in the lives of John G. Paton, of George Muller of Bristol, England, of Carey in India, of Judson in Burma and countless others who proved that it is practical, and not only practical but reasonable and the normal thing for every Christian to give an unconditional "Yes" to everything Jesus asks for and follow where His footsteps go, to the end of the world or in the thorniest path at home! Romans 12: 1, 2 demands exactly that and says it is only a reasonable service, in view of His mercies.

Some people say it is not practical, but the only ones who say that are those who never tried it. In my poor experience, though I have fallen far, far short, thank God, I have proven that it pays to serve the Lord, and to follow His leading, whether it costs money, or friends, whether it makes one seem a fool, a fanatic, or self-willed. I challenge you simply to try God out the first time you find a clear leading about anything, anything under heaven, and see if His way is not a happy way and

if it doesn't turn out better than any way you could devise!

3. *Next, remember: you do not have to settle all the problems of a lifetime at once.* Remember it is "Step by step I'll follow Jesus, Day by day I'm in His care." Remember that Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me" (Luke 9: 23). One day at a time is enough to live. So surrender for today, just for today. Say, "Lord Jesus, I am so weak, I can't promise anything for tomorrow. But I love you now and I want to do your will, and with all my heart I will try to do it today. Then tomorrow I'll ask for help again and try to follow you again." When we pray, we pray for "daily" bread. One time a woman who was greatly troubled about her fears and her indecision and her weakness in the Christian life said to D. L. Moody, "Mr. Moody, do you feel that you have dying grace?" "No, I do not," said Mr. Moody. "When God gets ready for me to die He'll give me dying grace. What I want now is grace for these three days' meetings in Milwaukee!" So you just be sure that you say, "Yes" to Jesus today, and let Him have His way today and then you will find that the way will be so sweet that you will want to let Him have His way the next day, too. He has promised, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:30). He will give you grace as you need it, so ask for grace for today.

4. *The fourth thing I want to say is that to follow Jesus certainly means some reproach.* You say, "If people are laughing, sneering at your life, is it really glorifying Christ? Shouldn't a Christian life be something that others would desire to have, rather than something for them to criticize?" No, you are wrong there, for oftentimes you can glorify Christ the very best by living such a life as will be displeasing to lost people around you. Did the Pharisees brag on the Lord Jesus when He was in Galilee? Did the Judaizers among the real Christians in New Testament churches like Paul's plain, out-and-out teaching and living? No, you will find that every real Christian had as well expect to have trouble. You say, "I know He's going to lead me to speak to some of those girls about their souls—perhaps even all of them. If I do they'll probably talk about me and think I'm coo-coo. Some of them have criticized me anyway for certain stands I have taken." Well, "the servant is not greater than his lord." (John 15: 20). If the world has hated Christ, should it not hate us also if we follow Him? Remember the plain promise in II Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." That was always true and it is true today. And remember also, in II Timothy 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us."

The attitude the Lord Jesus wants Christians to take is that given in Hebrews 13:10-13 which says:

"We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

"For the bodies of those beasts whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."

The Pharisees said of Christ, "He hath a devil" (John 7:20) and accused Him of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24). At Pentecost, the crowd said that Peter and all the Christians were drunk (Acts 2: 13). When Paul was before governor Festus, he said, "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad" (Acts 26: 24). So if some people sometimes think you are "coo-coo," then you will be following in the train of Christians who mean business for God!

Oh, I wish young people everywhere would find this out, that it is worth something to be an out-and-out Christian, and it costs something. I wish all of us could say,

Getting Just What You Pray For

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

IN MY NAME, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

So the blessed Holy Spirit makes known to us the will of Christ and calls to our remembrance what He has said in His Word, and teaches us all things we need to know, as we submit ourselves to Him and with fervent hearts meditate on God's Word. So Christians, then, have a blessed and sure way of knowing the will of God. If they pray according to the plain promises of the Word, and if they are led and helped by the Holy Spirit, then their prayers will be pleasing to God. God can put in the hearts of Christians what He wants them to pray for, what will honor His name, what will prosper His cause, what will be for the happiness and good of His children. And when we pray thus according to the will of God we can get exactly what we pray for.

And since the Holy Spirit is Christ's own personal representative, His Spirit, His Comforter, then one who is led by the Holy Spirit can honestly pray in Jesus' name.

Every prayer that is honestly presented in Jesus' name will be answered. That is the express statement of John 14:13, 14. Let us read it again, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask ANYTHING in my name, I will do it. There it is as plain as day. Anything under Heaven, asked in Jesus' name, will be given.

But how often we lie to God about this matter! People have fallen into the custom of saying at the close of their prayers, "This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen." But are we always asking in Jesus' name? Do we really mean, "Father, in Thy Word I have found what You have promised, and the Holy Spirit has made clear this petition is exactly what Jesus wants. Here He puts His endorsement on the prayer, and I know You will give it because Jesus wants it." Is that really always true about the prayers where we add the formal statement, "in Jesus' name"? I believe it is not. I know it is not, because many such prayers do not get the answer they seek; and that proves they are not really given in Jesus' name.

With the above things in mind it seems to me that there are clearly these elements in getting ready

like David, "neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (II Samuel 24:24).

5. The last bit of counsel I give is this: the way to have daily victory is to put the Lord first every day in a quiet time of reading the Word and meditating on it, finding God's will in it, and then in praying through each day, for peace and joy and power. Only by walking in the leading of the Spirit every day, taking heed to His sweet directions, confessing what He shows you is wrong, working in His power, and rejoicing in His comfort, can a Christian live a really successful, gloriously Christ-like life! So your victory will begin in the quiet watch, the place of prayer and waiting on God. I would make up my mind that I would go there each day to stay until I was willing for God's will to be done that very day, and then I would try to follow the leading of the Spirit. When you fail, confess it to God and He will forgive it and blot it all out. Do not be discouraged "for He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14). His strength is for just such weaknesses as yours and mine. His tender forgiving heart knows all about it, for, "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Please try this daily business; of meditating day and night in the Word of God with a little quiet time every day for reading and prayer, really praying through, until you have peace and victory. I suggest that you read at least four chapters a day, then you will read through the Bible in less than a

to pray. First, we should surrender our own will and decide we will be willing to have God's own will, whatever it is, wherever it leads, and whatever it costs. Second, we should eagerly seek in the Bible to find what is the will of God on the subject, and to pray according to the expressed will of God written down in His word. And third, we should earnestly submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit for guidance and seek to have clear leading from God as to what we should pray for, and how. And if the Holy Spirit of God gives a divine expectancy, a conquering faith, then we may be sure God will answer the prayer. And no matter how I feel, if I have surrendered my own will and am earnestly trying to find just what God wants me to pray for, and if I pray according to the written Word of God, and pray as the Holy Spirit leads out and as He prays with me and helps me in prayer, then I can be bold in my praying! I can claim and have the best God has for me!

I suggest that you go over your prayer list. Criticize and weigh carefully every item. Are you asking this for a personal, selfish reason? Is it according to the written Word of God? And does the Holy Spirit specially lead you out in prayer for this? If you have given up your own will and if it stands the test of the last two points, then you may with Holy boldness storm the gates of Heaven to get the answer to your prayer, and say like Jacob, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me!" (Gen. 32:26).

Now, beloved Christian, will you put this teaching in practice? Will you begin to pray definitely, asking God for concrete things? And will you seek to pray in the will of God and then expect day by day regularly, complete answers to prayer, receiving from God exactly what you ask Him for?

Remember that prayer is ASKING.

Remember that an answer to prayer is HAVING.

Therefore, "ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

"Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7,8).

year's time. But read as the Holy Spirit leads you until the Word of God is sweet to you, is rich in your promises all along and counsel and rebuke as you need it. Remember that Philippians 4:6, 7 promises perfect peace about everything, in regular prayer with supplication and thanksgiving.

Will you try this and let me hear from you? In the Saviour's name, and with very earnest prayer for you, I am

Your brother,
JOHN R. RICE

—o—

The Bible IS God's Word

"I beg leave to propose a short, clear and strong argument to prove the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

1. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord,' when it was their own invention.

2. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book which commands all duty, and forbids all sins, and condemns their own souls to hell for all eternity.

3. Therefore, draw the conclusion that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration."

— John Wesley

What Happened To A Dead Man

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

the life of Daniel, whenever he faced a problem or faced a decision in his life, a very important decision, what did he do? He went to the Lord with all his problems. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path."

Now notice how Mary and Martha appealed to the Lord in verse 5. We find here that they appealed to His great love. "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Why? What did they do? They left the matter entirely in His dear hands. They were not irreverent to tell Him what to do, but in obedience to the thirty-seventh Psalm, which says, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass," or "he worketh." Notice those two words, *commit* and *trust*, not dictate, not demand, but trust and repose. For "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

And now notice as we read on in John 11, verses 4 to 6; here we learn that Jesus loved their brother, yet He tarried two whole days in Peraea, just east of the River Jordan. And on first reading, it may seem heartless, cruel, on our Lord's part. Why, when the news reached Him, didn't He rush at once to the bedside of the one He loved? Let me read it to you in the fourth verse: "When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." There is the key—it was for the glory of God that He abode there.

Verse 6: "When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was." Why? Because He wanted that sickness to redound unto the glory of God, His Father. Answers to prayer are many times delayed for God's glory all that we may learn the lesson of submission to the Father's will. Christ even learned obedience by the things that He suffered, and He delighted to do the Father's will.

But notice the seventh verse of the eleventh chapter of John: "Then (that little word, how beautifully it is tucked away here). "Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again." My, how beautiful! The events now take place rapidly after that seventh verse, that little word then. I wish I had time to read all the verses from 8 to 15. But you notice the fifteenth verse. Christ states here: "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there to the intent ye may believe, nevertheless let us go unto him."

Well, let's go on. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is the greatest of all miracles given in the gospels, especially in John's gospel. Now the sick may be healed but there is no remedy, I want to tell you, friend of mine, for death, outside of Christ. As I said, the sick may be healed; but there is no remedy for death, outside of Christ. In the presence of death the wisest, the richest, the most mighty men have to confess their utter helplessness. And death is an enemy, the last enemy to be put under His feet. Both prince and peasant, both ruler and ruled have to bow to death if the Lord tarries.

Now, raising Lazarus from the dead—let's use this scene which so vividly portrays God's power, and see how today the unregenerate all are like this one man spiritually

speaking, and how they, too, may be brought to life as we see Lazarus was brought to life through Christ Jesus.

I want you to take your pen or pencil and underline some words in the balance of this chapter, and you will have the message that I am giving you. Seven things I want you to underline. Oh it is so simple. Then after this broadcast you can go over it and review it and meditate on it and drink therein.

Dead!

Notice in the fourteenth verse these words, "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is DEAD." Now, spiritually speaking, every unregenerated man or woman is dead before God. I am going to read to you out of the second chapter of Ephesians. Speaking there of those who are now saved He said, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this age, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

And I want to get this across to you, as far as God is concerned, every natural man, unregenerated man, is dead, spiritually speaking. His understanding is darkened, being alienated, that is, cut off from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their hearts. I want you to catch this: and when a thing is dead it is dead, that is Godward. The natural man is alive towards the things of the world because the third verse of the second chapter of Ephesians says this, "Among whom also we all had our citizenship in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." The natural man is alive toward the things of the world, toward self, toward sin; but Godward he is dead. And the natural man needs to be born again, needs to have a new life, a new nature. And this new nature can only be imparted by the acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. There is no other foundation, there is no other name, there is no other way, for Christ is the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father except through Him.

Corrupt!

I want you to mark the second thing in the eleventh chapter of John, verses 17 and 39. Here they say: "Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. And the thirty-ninth verse, "Jesus said take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days." Corruption had set in. And I want you to see that every natural man outside of Jesus Christ is corrupt before God. For we read in the 3rd chapter of Romans, verses 10 and following that "There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." And the human heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? Only God. And only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse that deceitful heart.

Loved!

Again the third thing, I want you to see now how the scene changes in verse 5 and verse 36. "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Listen, over against this dark, black background—Jesus loved the brother of Mary and Martha. Verse 36, "Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!" And I want you to know this that over against your sinful life and sinning life, God loves you. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." And we love Him because He first loved us. And "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him

should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Now, Lazarus was dead. He could not raise himself, but Christ loved him. And while we were yet sinners without strength Christ died for the ungodly; Christ loved us.

Raised

Then in the 43rd verse—here is the fourth point I want you to underline, "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them and let him go."

Now there are many high lights between in the preceding verses; I wish I had time to read the 20th and the 22nd verses. And then in the 23rd verse the words of assurance Jesus spoke unto Mary; He said, "Thy brother shall rise again." Then in the 35th verse, when He came to the tomb where the brother had been put away—this is the shortest verse in the Bible, showing you the humanity of Christ—"Jesus wept." Oh, listen, we do not have a High Priest Who cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but we can go to Him at all times and under all circumstances; and Jesus can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

And just before the 44th verse we find Christ bowing His head, or rather lifting His eyes, and praying and saying, "Father I thank thee that thou hast heard me... And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth." And I want to say to you that if He had not mentioned the name Lazarus, all Sheol would have been empty, all the dead would have come forth because of the mighty working power of the Lord Jesus. Raised—listen—dead, corrupt, loved, but now raised to walk in newness of life. God's Word tells us that if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall also share His resurrection life. And that is exactly what this brother did experience.

Liberated!

But now notice a double miracle in the 44th verse, not only raised, but liberated. Here it is, "And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." Not only raised from the dead, but he came forth from that tomb walking, though bound hand and foot and over His eyes was a napkin. Now listen, I am speaking to the members of the body of Christ, you who have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior—you have the newness of life you are walking with a resurrection life, but you are still bound with the graveclothes of carnality, and over your eyes is a napkin. And Paul prays that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened that you may know what is the hope of His calling and what is the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Oh, if the church of God would only see the lost condition of men and women over this world, you would do everything possible under the sun to get the true gospel out to dying men and women. Let the napkin drop from your eyes and see souls as God sees them! And that word LOOSE—I can't help but stop right here. You remember one day Christ said to the disciples, "Go over in the little village and bring that little donkey back, loose him and bring him back." And in II Peter the same word is translated DISSOLVE, that when the Lord Jesus comes some day, this earth is going to be dissolved with fervent heat and loosened from the bondage of corruption. And when Jesus gets hold of a man He will loose him from the bondage of corruption, dissolve him from these things, and from the power of sin.

Feasted!

The next two points I must take hurriedly. I will drop down to the 12th chapter after he was liberated. Notice the 2nd verse of the 12th chapter, "There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him." Listen you cannot have the blessings of fellowship and feasting until first of all the matter of relationship

Folding Organ Purchased Through Readers' Gifts

BY LOLA BRADSHAW

A few weeks ago we announced in *The Sword of the Lord* that the Faith Mission Band in Lexington, Kentucky, was in need of a folding organ. A number of readers, the editor, and office workers sent gifts, and Mr. Stone, secretary and treasurer of the Faith Mission Band, writes that the organ has arrived, a brand new, White, four-octave, folding organ, with waterproof case. Mr. Stone says: "I am so happy about this answer to prayer it makes me want to shout!"

The Faith Mission Band is sound in the faith, working in the Kentucky mountains where there are thousands of people who have never heard the simple gospel. Mr. Stone is an unselfish, good man who loves the Lord and loves lost souls and who gives of his own income to keep this work going.

has been settled. But once you become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have a right to sit down at the table and there feast upon the good things. Have you entered into the family relationship, are you a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ? Oh, listen, "But Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him."

A Testimony

And then the 11th verse of that 12th chapter. Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful in your town if God could get hold of some drunkard and bring him back to a place of decency and, do what it says here in the 11th verse? "Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus." And God is waiting for some of you some place across America and Canada and the Islands of the Sea and South America to come out into the open and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, and because of your testimony thousands of others will be brought into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Have you been raised from the dead? Are you liberated? For whom the Lord makes free, He makes free indeed. Do you know what it is to be a new creation in Christ Jesus?

Let's bow our heads in prayer. "Our Father, we realize that these things are written for our instruction and for our admonition; but we pray tonight especially for the members of the body of Christ at this moment that they may come out from the things of carnality and the world, bound with graveclothes, and the things of the old life, and really walk in newness of life. And may their eyes be opened to the reality of things. And then for the unsaved, Oh, God, may they realize that thy Son doth love them and He is calling to them tonight to come forth from the grave of sin, and may they come forth and walk in newness of life, for Jesus paid it all. For we ask it in His name and for His sake. Amen."

Friends, we are bringing this Old Fashioned Revival Hour to a close, and the most important part of the whole service is right now, whether you are going to decide for Christ, for time and eternity to be with Him, or whether you are going to reject Him dead in trespasses and sin and leave this old earth to spend a Christless eternity without Christ. May God help you to make a decision as we are coming to the close of this broadcast, remembering that the Christ of glory is calling upon you to come forth to come and walk in newness of life, to walk in obedience, feasting upon His Word and feasting in fellowship with the Christ of glory. What a wonderful privilege it is to have Christ in you, the hope of glory. Think of it, that the Christ of eternity wants to come and dwell in your earthly tabernacle, the best Friend a man could ever have.

Hundreds of Trial Subs Coming

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

September 16th about THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

"It is a real blessing to me every time I receive it. I always look for it and I can hardly do my work the day I get it."

There were four conversions reported through THE SWORD OF THE LORD in August and two reported during September, and hundreds of letters come, telling how Christians have been blessed. Can't you make a list of Sunday school teachers or deacons or elders, hungry young Christians who want to grow in grace, soul winners who need help, Sunday School teachers who would be strengthened for teaching the Word of God by THE SWORD OF THE LORD? We will stand the extra expense of these trial subscriptions which are received at less than actual cost, if you will subscribe for your friends.

Preacher Greatly Blessed by Book "The Soul-Winner's Fire"

A fine letter came this week from Evangelist Paul Levin which I feel sure he would be glad for me to quote. He says,

"Last night was 'rest night.' So I went to church here in our room. The preacher was John R. Rice, the subject SOUL WINNER'S FIRE. I read the book through and my soul was stirred to the depths. I'm so glad you wrote that book. I sold a number of them in my last meeting and have several for this campaign. I wish I could sell a hundred or more everywhere I go."

"I read parts of the book to Bob. We agreed that what we need is a revival. Bob said, 'He puts me under conviction.' He said other kind things which we cannot quote here. Every report from a reader of this new book tells of blessings received."

The new book will be given free with ten seventeen week trial subscriptions for \$2.00. It was published by the Moody Press (Bible Institute Colportage Association, Chicago) and we bought 5,000 extra copies with THE SWORD OF THE LORD imprint. There are 127 pages, a really attractive revival scene in two colors on the paper cover. The chapter headings are:

- I. "He That Winneth Souls is Wise"
- II. God's Way in Soul Winning
- III. The Compassionate Heart
- IV. The Soul-Winner's Fire
- V. Praying for Revival
- VI. Evangelistic Preaching
- VII. The Soul-Winner's Feet
- VIII. Unsaved Brothers

We want you to have this book and we want your friends to have trial subscriptions to the paper. Won't you write ten names and addresses of friends and send them with \$2.00 at once? Each of the ten names will receive *The Sword of the Lord* for seventeen weeks and you will receive this lovely book postpaid.

Or suppose you take a sample copy of *The Sword of the Lord* to church or Bible class or prayer meeting with you and ask ten or more people to give you 20c each for a seventeen week trial of *The Sword of the Lord*. Then you send in the names and addresses and you get the book just the same, free. This offer cannot continue long. We beg you to help in Jesus' name. Remember that the editor gets not a penny from *The Sword of the Lord* and that all this is done to get out the gospel, so we feel perfectly free to ask your co-operation and earnestly beg your prayers. Send your subscription to *The Sword of the Lord*, 512 W. Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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